North Dakota is a forerunner in the U.S. wheat industry, ranking second among states in total wheat production and first in production of hard red spring wheat. This report summarizes some logistical trends associated with the movement of hard red spring wheat from elevator to domestic and export markets. Figure 1 shows a continuing trend toward larger rail shipments in the wheat market. From 2007-09 to 2011-13, shuttle share increased from 59% to 73%. Further, rail rates to the Pacific Northwest continue to favor shuttles over smaller shipments, as depicted in Figure 2 below.

Markets  
Hard red spring (HRS) wheat is the leading crop planted in North Dakota (N.D. Agricultural Experiment Station), making it a key commodity in North Dakota agriculture. North Dakota accounts for nearly one-half of total HRS wheat production in the United States. This wheat moves to domestic and export markets in both east- and west-bound shipments.

Portland (PNW) remained ahead of other destinations as a market for shipments of HRS wheat originating from North Dakota elevators in 2012-13 (Figure 3). Minneapolis and Midland shipments typically move beyond the gateway to U.S. domestic millers. The Pacific Northwest is a large U.S. grain port and important gateway to Asian markets. Crop reporting district (CRD) origin detail for these markets is provided on page 2, along with a world map depicting top markets and export points.

Rail Market Shares  
Figure 4 shows the trends in market shares for Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF)* and Canadian Pacific (CP)** rail lines as well as trucks for HRS wheat shipped from North Dakota elevators. BNSF’s five-year average market share is 65% (crop years 2008-09 to 2012-13). BNSF remains the largest hauler of North Dakota wheat. After maintaining several years of market share at or above 30%, CP remains low at 23% in 2012-13. The truck share has declined from a 2002-03 share of 16% to just 9% for shipments from ND elevators for the 2012-13 marketing year.
HRS Wheat Export by Region and Port Area

HRS Wheat Export by Region and Port Area

**One metric ton = 36.74 Bushels**

Patterns and methods of shipping HRS Wheat per the Annual North Dakota Elevator Marketing Report and the North Dakota Grain And Oilseed Transportation Statistics report. The complete reports, CRD map, and additional market information are available at http://www.ugpti.org/resources/grain/.